



MISS UNIVERSE

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Around 520 B.C., the king of the Medes and Persians threw a super party that lasted over 6 months.

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King Ahasuerus invited everyone important from all 120 of his provinces, from India to Ethiopia.

The king showed off all the riches of his glorious kingdom.



When he was drunk, he decided to show off his beautiful queen.

But Vashti wouldn't come.



The king lost face before his people.

The story spread like lightning.

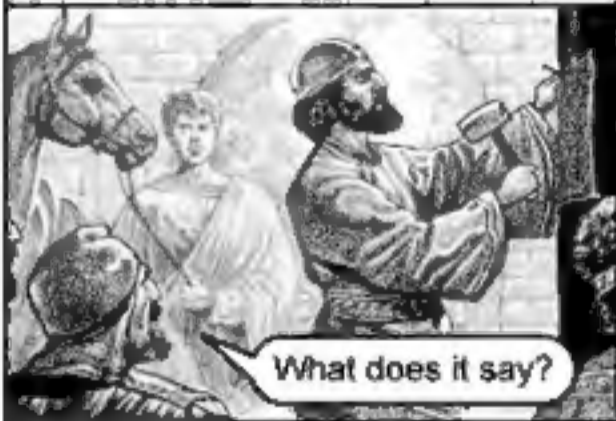
Did you hear?

Yes!
Queen
Vashti
showed
him!

Good for her!

Everywhere, wives began revolting. The king called an emergency meeting.


All the men agreed:
Queen Vashti had to go!



What does it say?

A law was published requiring all wives to honor their husbands.


A beauty contest was suggested...



Hummm...
Yes, I like that!

to find the world's most beautiful
virgin for the king.

Every mother dreamed of her
daughter being the new queen.



I can see you wearing
the crown.

What?

But, Mama...

I'm not
a virgin.

You're not?

WHACK!

God was setting the stage to block one of Satan's most murderous attacks upon the children of Israel.

Over 100 years earlier, Jerusalem had been attacked.



Most of the population was taken to Babylon as slaves.

Eventually, Babylon fell to the Medes and Persians.



At this time many Jewish people lived in exile under Ahasuerus.

Mordecai, a Jew, lived in the palace. He had a beautiful foster daughter named Esther.

You must never tell anyone you are a Jew.



Yes, Mordecai.

Esther was taken with the other virgins to prepare to meet the king.

Esther won the hearts of those she worked with.



When 12 months of purification ended, she was sent to see the king.

The king
loved Esther
above all
the women...

so he made
her queen instead of Vashti.



The king threw another party.
He called it "Esther's Feast."



He didn't know that Esther
was a Jewess.

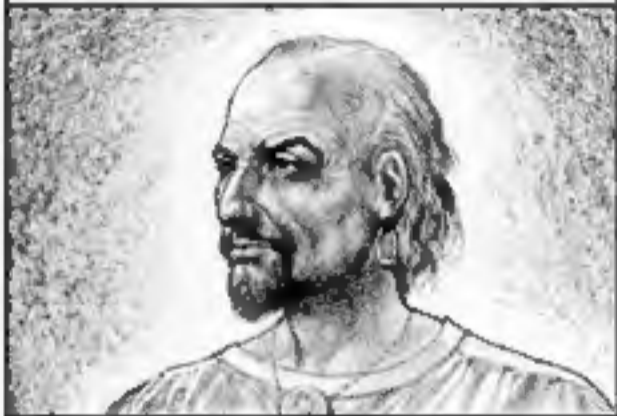
One day, Mordecai overheard a plot to assassinate King Ahasuerus.



He got word to Esther, and those involved were hanged.

But no one thanked Mordecai for saving the king's life.

About this time, the king promoted Haman, a dangerous Jew-hater.



The king commanded **EVERYONE** to bow to Haman.

Haman was like a prime minister. Everyone bowed to him.

Everyone, that is, except Mordecai.



Mordecai was warned not to show disrespect to Haman, but he would not listen.

Haman was filled with wrath.
(Esther 3:5)

Haman was told that Mordecai was a Jew.

There's another one!

I hate them all!

So Haman sought to destroy all the Jews. (See Esther 3:6)

They cast lots to pick the exact day for the terrible slaughter



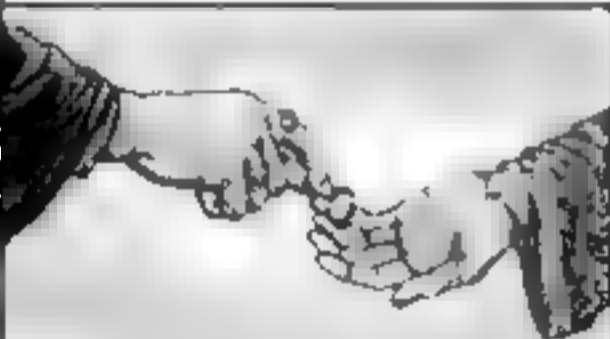
Now Haman had to sell his plan to the king.

Haman told the king of some strange people in the kingdom who ignored his laws



The king didn't even ask which people Haman wanted to exterminate

The king gave his signature ring to Haman. Any writing bearing the ring's mark became law.



Haman immediately set the date for the slaughter of the Jews.

Hummm the 13th of the month Adar

Why kill the Jews?

It's the law. We must be good citizens and take part.

Anyone who killed a Jew could keep his property.
The Jews were terrified.

Mordecai sent Esther a message



Go before the king to save your people

But I will die unless he holds out his scepter to me

Mordecai believes you were raised up for such a time as this

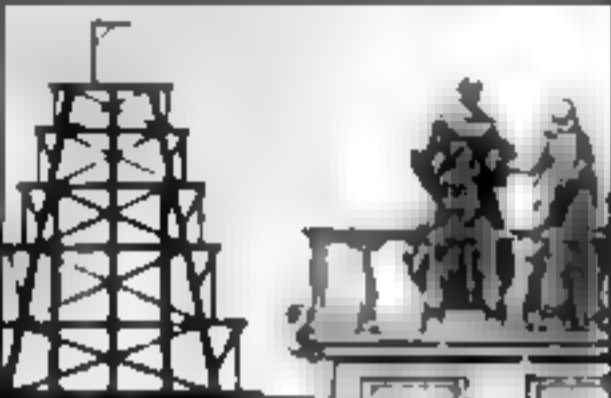
She asked that all the Jews pray and fast three days for her.

Three days later she went before the king He extended his scepter



What is your request?

She invited the king and Haman to a banquet Haman was delighted



Mordecai still refused to bow so Haman built a 75 foot gallows

- He planned to ask the king's permission to hang Mordecai.

That night the king couldn't sleep, so he read the book of records.

Was Mordecai rewarded for saving my life?



No your Majesty

He must be rewarded

Just then Haman arrived to see about hanging Mordecai

Haman how can I reward a man I want to honor?

He *must* mean me!

Dress him in the king's robes and a royal crown!

And lead him through the streets on the king's horse

Wonderful!
Go do that for **MORDECAI**.

Haman couldn't believe his ears.

Totally humiliated, Haman paraded his arch enemy through the city as a champion.

This is the man the king delighteth to honor



Hooray for Mordecai!

Haman was so upset he forgot about Esther's banquet. The king's servants had to go get him.

At the banquet, the King asked Esther what her petition was and promised it would be granted

She asked that the lives of her and her people be spared



Who would **DARE** slay the queen?

This wicked Haman!

(Gasp!) The queen, a Jew? Oh, no!

The king went outside to cool off.

Haman fell across Esther's bed and begged for his life. Just then the king returned



(Gasp!) Will he rape the queen right in front of me?



The king
ordered
Haman to
be hanged
on his own
gallows.

Then he made a new law giving
the Jews authority to kill anyone
who threatened them.

The Jews rejoiced and had a feast

A black and white illustration of Queen Esther. She is wearing a crown and a long, flowing, patterned robe. She is looking upwards with a prayerful expression. A speech bubble is positioned to her left, containing the text "God bless Queen Esther.".

God bless
Queen Esther.

Today Jews of the world
celebrate the Feast of Purim
as a memorial to this story.

For centuries, the Jews have looked for their promised Messiah to save them.

Who is the Messiah?

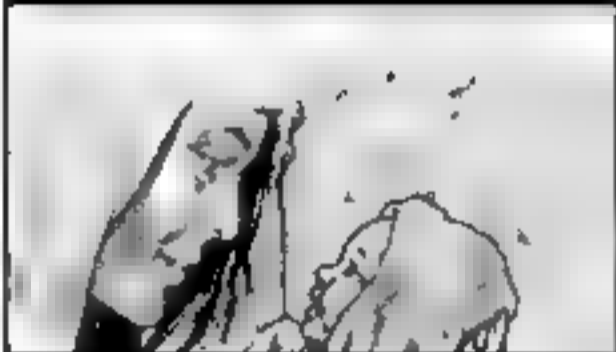
The prophet Isaiah described him:

For unto us a child is born

and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor *The mighty God*, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)



Isaiah said to look for this sign: I



Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

"Immanuel" means "God with us."

The Messiah *had* to suffer. (Isaiah 53:5)

Jesus shed His precious blood to wash away our sins.



“For God so loved

the world, that he gave his only begotten Son (Jesus), that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

Jesus arose from the dead and now sits at the right hand of God. (1 Peter 3:22)



Jesus created the universe and will judge all things at His Second Coming. (See John 5:22)



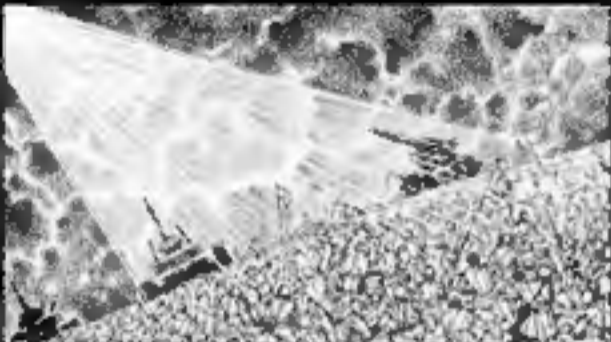
Like Haman, another enemy of the Jews, called "The Beast," will come to power. His goal will be to rule the world and destroy Israel. (Rev 13:14)

When the Russian and Arab armies attack, Christ will destroy them on the mountains of Israel.
(Ezekiel 39:4)



When it looks hopeless, the heavens will open and Jesus Christ will return as Israel's Messiah. (See Rev 19:11-16)

**Jesus will destroy Satan's
armies at Armageddon.**



**The Lord Jesus will rule the govern-
ments of the world from Jerusalem.**

Satan will be cast into the lake of fire.

**Jesus said, "In my Father's house
are many mansions... I go to
prepare a place for you." John 14:2**

Who will you trust?



Jesus Christ



Satan

The choice is yours.

THE BIBLE SAYS THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO HEAVEN!

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6

NOBODY ELSE CAN SAVE YOU. TRUST JESUS TODAY!

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Rom. 10:9

1. Admit you are a sinner. See Romans 3:10
2. Be willing to turn from sin (repent). See Acts 17:30
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you, was buried and rose from the dead. See Rom. 10:9-10
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus into your heart to become your personal Saviour. See Rom. 10:13

WHAT TO PRAY

Dear God, I am a sinner and need forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ shed His precious blood and died for my sin. I am willing to turn from sin. I now invite Christ to come into my heart as my personal Saviour.

If you trusted Jesus as your Saviour, you have just begun a wonderful new life with Him. Now:

1. Read your Bible (KJV) every day to get to know Jesus Christ better.
2. Talk to God in prayer every day.
3. Be baptized, worship, fellowship, and serve with other Christians in a church where Christ is preached and the Bible is the final authority.
4. Tell others about Jesus Christ.

Here's help to grow as a new Christian! Read *The Next Step*, available at www.chick.com.

